

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 RSC-01 DRC-01 SS-15 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 IO-13

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 ACDA-19

OMB-01 AF-10 EUR-25 /153 W

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P 260426Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9617

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3416

SECTO 04

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

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KUWAIT PASS MANAMA, ABU DHABI, DOHA, AND MUSCAT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, XA, UNGA

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON FOR ARAB DELEGATIONS

1. SECRETARY'S LUNCHEON FOR ARAB FOREIGN

MINISTERS AND PERM REPS (SEPTEMBER 25) SEEMED TO GO WELL AND PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY FOR A GET-ACQUAINTED SESSION WITHOUT STIMULATING UNDUE EXPECTATIONS. ALL ARAB GOVERNMENTS AND ARAB LEAGUE REPRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ALGERIA, OIBYA, SYRIA, IRAQ, AND SOUTH YEMEN. FON MINS PRESENT WERE YEMENI, BAHRAINI, LEBANESE, PLUS ARAB LEAGUE SYG MAHMOUD RIAD. KUWAITI UNABLE ATTEND AT LAST MINUTE DUE ILLNESS.

2. IN HIS FEW REMARKS AT END OF LUNCHEON, SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID THIS WAS NOT THE OCCASION THAT COULD SERVE FOR A MAJOR POLICY DECLARATION; PURPOSE WAS TO GET ACQUAINTED. SECRETARY STRESSED WE UNDERSTAND ARAB CONCERNS AND ANGUISH AND THEIR VIEW THAT EXISTING SITUATION CANNOT BE ACCEPTED. WE ACCEPT VIEW THAT NO PERMANENT PEACE CAN BE FOUND ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTING SITUATION. WE VALUE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH ARABS. WE ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY TO PROMOTE A JUST SOLUTION. QUESTION IS HOW WE CAN PROCEED TO SETTLEMENT WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN LIVE. NO SETTLEMENT CAN LAST WHICH IS IMPOSED BY ONE SIDE ON THE OTHER. IT IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE A PEACE BASED ON JUSTICE AND ONE ACCEPTED BY ALL.

3. SECRETARY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ARABS WOULD NOT ASK US FOR MIRACLES, BUT THEY COULD ASK FOR POLITICAL ACTS ON OUR PART. THIS REQUIRES THAT WE AND THE ARABS DISCUSS FRANKLY WHERE WE CAN GO AT VARIOUS STAGES. THERE IS NOTHING EASIER THAN TO DEVELOP A PEACE PLAN OR AN ABSTRACT PLAN. IT DOES NOT HELP, HOWEVER, TO HAVE ABSTRACT PROPOSALS WHICH THEN BOTH SIDES WILL START SHOOTING AT. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HAD NOTED AMBIGUITY IN SC 242 WITH EACH SIDE PUTTING ITS OWN INTERPRETATION. US PREPARED TO HELP PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE PROGRESS TOWARD GOAL OF JUST PEACE; BUT WE NEED SOME UNDERSTANDING AND, IN ALL CANDOR, CONFIDENTIAL

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ARABS NEEDED SOME UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT IS POSSIBLE AND WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED PRACTICALLY. WE WILL APPROACH MATTER FROM POINT OF VIEW OF OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP AND WITH AN OPEN ATTITUDE. SECRETARY THEN PROPOSED TOAST TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

4. SECRETARY-GENERAL RIAD, AS SENIOR ARAB DIPLOMAT, WHILE REITERATING ARAB SUBSTANTIVE POSITION, RESPONDED

IN POLITE AND MODERATE TONE. AFTER THANKING SECRETARY FOR LUNCH, HE SAID US RELATIONS INDEED HAVE BEEN TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY WITH ARAB WORLD. THEY HAD BEEN GOOD UNTIL ARABS FELT US HAD ADOPTED POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI; THEN US-ARAB RELATIONS STARTED TO SUFFER. HE STRESSED THAT ORIGINALLY THERE WAS BOTH FRIENDSHIP AND ADMIRATION FOR AMERICANS. HE SAID THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR GOOD RELATIONS TO BE RESUMED AGAIN, BUT THIS NEEDS "LOTS OF ACTION" AND EFFORTS. HE SAID ONLY OBSTACLE IS ISREALI AGGRESSION. SAID ARABS AGREED THAT THERE HAD TO BE PEACE WITH JUSTICE, BUT JUSTICE NEEDED DEFINITION. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO GIVE TRADITIONAL ARAB DEFINITION: (A) THAT THERE MUST BE TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 LINE; AND (B) THE PALESTINE QUESTION MUST BE DEALT WITH AND THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS RESPECTED. HE ALLUDED TO FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN MANY PAST EFFORTS BY US, JARRING, AND OTHERS AND NOTHING HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. HE REPEATED PROBLEM WAS THE ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF ARAB LANDS AND NEED TO RESTORE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. BUT, HE SAID, ARABS HAD NOT LOST HOPE; ALL LONG FOR PEACE, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE TRY AND TRY AGAIN BECAUSE MIDDLE EASTERN SITUATION IS EXPLOSIVE AND COULD LEAD TO A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS AND WARS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE ISRAEL WOULD ABIDE BY THE UN RESOLUTIONS. HE CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 242 WHILE AT THE SAME TIME AGREEING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER ON ITS AMBIGUITY AND THAT EACH SIDE HAD PUT DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS ON IT. HE SAID FOR ARABS ACCEPTANCE OF SC 242 (WHICH SOME ARABS HAD NOT ACCEPTED AT ALL) MEANS TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE 1967 LINES.

5. HE CONCLUDED ON A POSITIVE NOTE, EXPRESSING HOPE
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THAT AS RESULT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DISCUSSION AND CONTACTS IN COMING DAYS AHEAD, A GOOD UNDERSTANDING WOULD RESULT AND THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO SOME STEP TOWARDS PEACE, WHICH, IN TURN, WOULD LEAD TO AN IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ARABS AND THE US.
KISSINGER

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